AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 26, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 3, NO. 45 WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1914. WHOLE NO. 149

INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

TO ABOLISH GUARD SYSTEM

Secretary of Labor Wilson Urges Congress to Act.

IS AGAINST PRIVATE SOLDIERY

In a Vigorous Report Nation's Attention is Called to Policy of Large Corporations.

Washington, Feb. 7.—In his first annual report Secretary of Labor Wilson asks Congress to pass legislation that will prevent the interstate transportation of armed guards in times of strike. Reference is made to the use of these individuals, the Secretary declaring they are said to have been imported from Colorado and other States through a business (sometimes engaged commercially across State lines in supplying corporations with an armed and trained auxiliary or police in numbers running into hundreds and even thousands. In connection with the Paint Marquette strike in Michigan, armed guards, furnished by agencies in other States supplying men to take the place of local strikers, are computed those men to Grand Rapids. They were then turned back by the United States marshal upon instructions from the district judge. In the Calumet copper mining region armed guards under contract with the employers were forwarded to the locality by agencies in other States. Mr. Wilson says Congress to take action within its constitutional limitations to regulate this business in the interest of peace and order. It is shown that this suggestion is neither novel or new, and the report of the 62nd Congress contained a report of investigated the Homestead strike, twenty-one years ago, to demand an end to a practice. This report favored regulation and declared these guards ought "properly be characterized as part of the private military or police force." Mr. Wilson submits that the rights of Congress in the matter are undoubted because of its laws relating to the "white slave" traffic and the opinion of Congress and the public generally that interstate commerce no longer applies to traffic in commodities.

AGAINST PRIVATE ARMIES.

Denver, Feb. 7.—Under the caption, Private Armies and Private Government Intolerable in United States," the evening Republican of this city, says: "The first political lesson at Trinidad, taught also at Homestead more than twenty years ago, is that private armies are intolerable in a free government. They imperil liberty wherever they must not be allowed to contribute to the destruction of America. The enforcement of law is a public duty. When it is subbet to either party in a controversy, justice vanishes. Through its agents, the United States now knows that, for months in the Colorado coal country, free government did not exist—it had broken down. In its place was private government, irresponsible and unrelated greed. The governor of Colorado says the burden of blame upon "imported, armed men." The United States, now knows that the big trouble was with imported gunmen and, with their unmerciless employers, the representee capitalists. It is got just to compel "underpaid labor" to bear the cost of this default in government. It is cruel to take it out of starving men and women. The public must not lose sight of the federal constitution is ample warrant for Uncle Sam to butt in. Motor Jones' detention pending due process of law is another immediate reason."

MUST ORGANIZE FIRST.

Joliet, Ill., Feb. 1.—In an address to the Carpenters of this city, on the occasion of their fifteenth annual banquet, Frank B. Anderson, in speaking on, "What Unionism Means to the Nation and World," said: "Once it was a crime, punishable by imprisonment, to belong to a labor organization. Now I believe it is a crime for a man not to belong to a labor union. I want to cite you three things which have marked for the advance of unionism, and I will speak of them in the order of their importance. They are legislation, agitation and education. The eight-hour day is on the statute books of this country, but it was not written there until three-fourths of the people are now enjoying that privilege had gained it for themselves through their labor unions—through organization."

MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

San Jose, Feb. 7.—After several hours' debate the California State Building Trades council convention elected officers by the initiative and referendum. The feature of this plan had been a campaign for President McCarthy and Secretary Trettmoe. An absence of personalities marked the discussion. Reports to the convention showed an increase in membership of affiliated unions of 1,328, a gain of 18 per cent. The eight-hour day of barber shops throughout the state was endorsed, as was the La Follette seaman's bill, which passed the United States senate, and the proposed state eight-hour law, to be voted on at the next general election.

MINERS' CONVENTION ENDS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 7.—After a two weeks' session the convention of the United Mine Workers of America has adjourned. St. Louis was selected as the next meeting place. The convention favored a flat rate of 2 cents a ton on mine run basis, a 10 per cent advance on other labor connected with mines, and a half holiday on Saturday. A two years' contract was agreed to, and the scale committee approved the appointment of 9 organizers. While that there be no suspension of work in the event that negotiations with the employers are incomplete by April 1, when the present agreement expires.

BARBERS BACK IN FOLD.

Boston, Feb. 17.—The last semblance of dualism among Boston Barbers has disappeared with the announcement that an organization styling itself the "Independent Barbers Union of America," has voted officially to fuse with the big A. F. of L. Barber Union. The last of the seceded organization was the last of a so-called revolutionary union of Barbers that attracted considerable attention in the public press last summer, but which went in for after the prosperity talk and declarations of its leaders lost their novelty both to workers and to the public in general.

RAISE A DEFENSE FUND.

London, Feb. 7.—The Boilermakers' and Shipwrights' societies have agreed to raise a large defense fund for use in case of conflict by the 300,000 workers interested. Only superannuated members and apprentices will be exempt from assessments, which will be distributed in case of lockouts or strikes over a period of eight weeks to each member.

EMPLOYERS ARE SCORED.

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 7.—Officials of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation scored the management of the American Printing Company for a refusal to arbitrate differences with its employes who have tied up the factory in this city because of discrimination and wages. Chairman Wood said the strikers were willing to abide by an arbitration decision, but the company declined "because it did not want to submit to the intervention of a third party." In answer to this position, the board representative said: "The company's reason is not logical. Other difficulties that it encounters in its business have to be settled by a third party. Troubles of a legal nature require the intervention of a third party. Arbitration is recognized by law, and by all fair-minded people, as a square, logical method of settling trouble of this sort. There is no reason in our minds why this trouble should not be submitted to arbitration, which provides for a complete, careful and fair settlement of the questions involved." The company has been offered the same reward position because of the publicity given it, and it has offered to take back all of the strikers and confer or negotiate on the wage question. The company's previous offer was to take back 75 per cent, but this was rejected.

WANT COMPENSATION NOW.

Baltimore, Feb 7.—Unionists in this city are making favorable progress for the Hanemond compensation bill, and are watching the efforts of certain interests which are trying to amend the measure to eliminate the right to compete with the state in insuring workers against accident. A committee of the labor body was named to assist in securing this kind of insurance. That is, if the insurance companies will furnish bonds that they could make prompt settlements. What we want is promptness in bringing relief to the injured workmen and members of his family in the event that he is killed and not having dependent relatives willing to sue for damages by litigation. We want to know that if we are going to get what is coming to us, and at once." The committee which has notified the business interests that he would not amend the bill unless such action was satisfactory to the trade unions.

THE ALIEN DISCUSSED.

Astoria, Ore., Feb. 7.—In his report to the Oregon State Federation of Labor, in convention here, Secretary Bernard declared that "the immigration laws are not sufficiently stringent. A horde of serfs are transported to this country, and the other requirements it is necessary for them to have are not difficult to obtain. They have it when they land. The transportation companies have it after they land. This has been done and is being done, and will continue to be done until the cash requirement is high enough to prevent the transportation companies from advancing the money." A law providing eight hours for women was urged. The new department of commerce bill, because of its recent passage, was referred to as an untried experiment, and unionists were asked to carefully watch its workings. A representative of the Farmers' Co-Operative Union addressed the convention. He extended fraternal greetings and urged closer contact between the two movements.

RESULT OF ORGANIZATION.

Philadelphia, Feb. 7.—After a year's persistent agitation and education Team Drivers Union No. 676 has secured all fifteen members to over 2,000, with signed agreements that carry wage increases for 50 members employed in the coal industry that range from $1 to $2 a week. During the twelve months this union was in existence over $1,000 dollars has been spent for organizing literature. Four business agents are now necessary to care for the work for this army of Teamsters, whose officers report that the organization is not confined to any single local, and several of the other Teamsters unions have taken on a new lease of life as the result of this fight's glorious success. These workers are enthusiastic and harmonious, and declare their success has been largely the direct response to this motto: "Don't strike unless you have to; arbitrate always."

SAFEGUARD WORKERS.

St. Paul, Feb. 7.—Statistician Hoffman, of the State Labor Department, is enthusiastic over efforts to protect the lives of workers. In the past year, seven industries $5,000 and $10,000 a year are expended to improve machinery and install safety devices. The result will take two years to make the improvements ordered by the department's inspectors. He also says that the fact that only two cases employers are quite willing to assist state officials in the work. In cases where orders are disregarded to improve or safeguard, injunctions to enforce the employer is given by the state. The penalty of $100 a day is made prohibitive, as the employers agree to pay triple time for labor on this day. A scale for helpers is also agreed to. They shall receive while partners $2.50 per day, $2.50 for the second, and $2 for the third. The contract involves nearly 400 men, employed in the shops, all of which recognize the union.

TO REVISE SCHEDULE.

St. Paul, Feb. 7.—Conductors and Trainmen on the Great Northern railroad system are demanding a revision of the working schedule, which has been "stepped" since 1907. Meetings from the interested brotherhoods is considering the question, and betterments will be submitted to the road when contracts are signed. The men in the freight service present the most grievances.

MUST ADMIT REPORTERS.

Chillicothe, O., Feb. 7.—Common Pleas Judge Goldsberry has decided against officials of this county in the case brought against the Scioto Gazette, in which the paper sought to debar reporters from meetings of the county commissioners. The decision holds that the newspaper has a property right in news relating to the actions of public officials.

AGAINST SUBCONTRACTING.

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 7.—Carpenters of this city are opposing the system of subcontracting, which is declared to be a detriment both to journeyman and contractor. It is charged that this system results in a lowering of wages by the employment of cheap help.

PLEADER FOR PRIVILEGE UNHORSED BY PRESIDENT GOMPER'S LOGIC

Washington, Feb. 7.—With banter, satire and logic President Gompers, of the A. F. of L. makes answer complete in the February issue of The American Federationist to Col. Harvey, of The North American Review, who charges that the exemption of labor unions and farmers' organizations in the Sundry Civil Appropriations law "guarantees immunity to both from either civil or criminal liability from every federal law upon the statute books." The law referred, to provides that no appropriation in the measure can be used to prosecute these organizations for entering into any combination or agreement "having in view the increasing of wages, the shortening of hours, or bettering the conditions of labor, or for any act done in furtherance thereof, not in itself unlawful." This law was passed last year, and in answer to Col. Harvey's latter-day protests, President Gompers says in part:

"Col. Harvey has fallen upon evil days. Like Jeremiah of old he would rouse the erring people by his lament. That lament may be purchased in the January issue of The North American Review. His chivalric soul is sore troubled by imminent perils to the 'interests.' Col. Harvey has long been recognized as the champion of the class who would exploit the working people and to coin their necessity into profits. Now the redoubtable Colonel sees a cloud upon the horizon of the 'interests.' * * * The cloud is the disgusting Col. Harvey is the demand of human workers that the government shall free them from all class restrictions and relieve them from prosecution for acts in pursuance of organizations, not in themselves unlawful:

"Suppose that laws are enacted prohibiting speculation or monopoly, say in the staple foodstuffs of the people, will it be held that such laws apply to the cooks in hotels and restaurants? Will it be held that only when cooks and bakers enter the field of controlling and monopolizing products, foodstuffs, can their actions be classified with those actions inhibited by the law. Laws enacted should apply to all the people, but only those who do the things inhibited should be held to be guilty as violators of law.

"In other words, the organized workers demand that as they are not free agents in determining working conditions, and hours that will conserve human life, the government shall keep its hands off unless the workers do that for which any other citizen would be punished, and give the workers the same rights and impose the same obligations that are given to and placed upon all other citizens. Labor organizations demand the right to existence, which logically implies the right to necessary, lawful activities. * * * We submit to any fair-minded person of ordinary intelligence as to whether there is anything in that provision that could be merely construed as substantiating Col. Harvey's interpretation.

"Words cannot more clearly or forcefully state that the purpose of the proviso is to remove the organized workers from prosecution simply and purely because they are organized workers, and to secure them equality before the law, and to provide that they shall be punished only for acts in themselves unlawful.

"So far as any one who is willing to accept the plain unmistakable meaning of words in common usage that the purpose of the proviso is not special favors and class legislation, but equal rights and equal responsibilities for all.

"Organizations of laborers exist because of human needs; the seek human welfare and betterment; they control only human labor power, one and inseparable from their very life.

"Commercial and industrial associations are organized for profits; they seek industrial control, supremacy over competitors; they deal in material things—the products of labor.

"Labor power is a part of human beings; it is throbbing, pulsating life.

"Material things are for the service of human beings; they are external and appropriable.

"To classify organizations of human laborers, who possess only the power to labor, with organizations which deal in the products of that labor and to place both in the same category under the same restriction, establishes conditions that can result only in injustice.

"It is against the injustice of interpreting the Sherman anti-trust law as applying to organizations of workingmen organized not for profit that the workers have made their protest.

"If workingmen should organize a company to engage in business, productive or distributive—for example, open a co-operative establishment—and should deal in anything—such operations they would undoubtedly come under the same classification as other employers, business men engaged in industry or commerce. But when workingmen are organized simply for the purpose of controlling their own physical power, their power to labor, such associations cannot be classified as combinations in illegal restraint of trade when regularly and lawfully organized for that purpose. Under the Sherman Anti-trust law. * * * Cannot Col. Harvey see that there are real differences between organizations for profit and unions of workingmen?" Col. Harvey's comments are the outgrowth of President Wilson in signing the Sundry Civil Appropriations Act containing the proviso quoted above. Indeed, that course is not the "original sin" committed by Col. Harvey represents, the special pleas which he voices, or the purpose for which he indulges in sophistries and patent misrepresentations. * * *

The Appropriations Act contained the following proviso asked for by the workers, he was in accord with that which had 'had the organic consideration of those for whom' he is spokesman. The proviso does not change the principle, 2,484,974 votes were cast. Ought not even Col. Harvey to understand that whether he likes it or not the principle represents the will of the people? In addition to the specific facts indicating the will of the people, the purposes of the organized workers as expressed in this amendment have for years been a current issue discussed before platform committees, before party conventions, in campaign speeches, before congressional committees, before both Houses of Congress, by the daily press and the magazines of the country, when the issue has been before the special consideration in connection with proposed legislation and with the Hatters and Contempt cases which are well known to all the public men of the country. With all these opportunities of information, Col. Harvey published his editorial grossly misrepresenting the purpose of organized labor."

O'CONNELL'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Washington, Feb. 7.—James O'Connell, vice president of the American Federation of Labor and member of the Federal Industrial Relations Commission, narrowly escaped death in the sound in collision between two steamboats in a heavy fog off the Virginia coast. He was a passenger from Norfolk to New York on the Old Dominion liner Monroe, which was rammed in the early morning by the big steamer Merrimac of the Merrimac Miners' company. The Monroe sank to the bottom in a few minutes. Mr. O'Connell, together with many other passengers and members of the crew were saved, and 9 were lost. The rescued rushed from their berths in their night clothes and were picked up in this condition from the icy waters. The trade unionist's recovery was thrilling. As the Monroe careened for the last time he was thrown high into the air, over the vessel's side, and landed astride the captain's neck in the last lifeboat that left the ship. Secretary of Commerce Redfield is investigating the collision.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Denver, Feb. 7.—Judge Butler, of this city, has sustained the position of Labor Commissioner Drake in the matter of the eight-hour law applies to female bookkeepers, cashiers, and stenographers in mercantile, mechanical, and manufacturing establishments. The court held a broom manufacturer guilty of working the bookkeeping cost by a girl more than 8 hours a day, despite the pleas of attorneys for the defense that the law applied only to girl bookkeepers who were employed in departments of the industries mentioned above. The decision overthrows the narrow interpretation placed on the law by the state's attorney general.

WILL TEST THE LAW.

Portland, Oreg., Feb. 7.—Mayor Albee, of this city, has been arrested on complaint of the State Labor Commissioner, who charges the mayor with violating the state eight-hour law by refusing to put municipal firemen and police officers on eight-hour shifts. He contends this would be burdensome to the taxpayers. Both parties have agreed to make the matter a test case, as the question is of interest to the entire state. It is held that the law does not apply to the government of cities in the state.

FOR SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

Portland, Oreg., Feb. 7.—The various painters' unions in this city have notified their employers that they have declared for a Saturday half holiday, to take effect on March 1, and that no union Painter will work on Saturday afternoon after the above mentioned date.

AN UNUSUAL REQUEST.

Hamilton, O., Feb. 7.—City Sheriff Halperin appeared before the meeting of the Hamilton central body at its last session and asked that a committee be appointed to assist him in organizing the city employes. The request was complied with. The request was complied with.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE.

Waco, Tex., Feb. 7.—The Horseshoers of this city have organized a union, which starts out under the most favorable conditions, as the workers in this craft are agreed that only by unity can they better their conditions.

TEAMSTERS ARE UNITING.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—Teamsters of South Chicago are organizing the grocery drivers, caged by many cases are less than $15 a week.

SEAMEN ISSUE STATEMENT

Say Senate Bill 136 Will Provide Safety at Sea.

COST OF OPERATION IS EQUAL

Port and Not Flag of Vessel Is the Basis of the Wages Paid to Sailors.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Acting under authority of the International Seamen's Union of America, President Furuseth has issued a statement in favor of Senate Bill, No. 136, which is identical with a bill now pending in the house of the Congress, except the present one has a new clause requiring sufficient lifeboats for passenger vessels. The statement follows: "The bill will not increase, but its adoption would give freedom to the sailors, promote safety at sea and "equalize operating expenses of foreign and domestic vessels engaged in over-sea trade and tend to build up our merchant marine." In answer to the claim made that the difference in the cost of building and operating their ships made competition impossible, it is recalled that the last Congress equalized the building cost by providing for eight-built vessels to American register for purposes of foreign trade. This makes the only difference one of wages, and the Seaman clearly show that wages are not based upon the flag a vessel flies, but upon the prevailing wages in force at the port from which she sails. Or, in other words, vessels flying different flags, and employing sailors from one certain port, must pay the prevailing wages at that port. The statement follows in part: "The bill is in the interest to the entire seafaring world. It is not class legislation. The law does not apply to the government of cities in the state.

AN UNUSUAL REQUEST.

Hamilton, O., Feb. 7.—City Sheriff Halperin appeared before the meeting of the Hamilton central body at its last session and asked that a committee be appointed to assist him in organizing the city employes. The request was complied with. The request was complied with.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE.

Waco, Tex., Feb. 7.—The Horseshoers of this city have organized a union, which starts out under the most favorable conditions, as the workers in this craft are agreed that only by unity can they better their conditions.

TEAMSTERS ARE UNITING.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—Teamsters of South Chicago are organizing the grocery drivers, caged by many cases are less than $15 a week.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The Department of Labor reports that for the month of December, last year, 83,387 immigrants were admitted, and from the first of July till the last of December 731,909 came to our shores. During December southern Italy contributed its lead, by furnishing 13,416 immigrants of the total number admitted. The occupations of these immigrants establishes interesting reading. The number of farm laborers is 17,823; laborers, 16,911, and servants, 11,818. The largest number of workers who possessed skill was laborers, 1,295. The number of seamstresses, importers, clerks, and dressmakers averaged 1,200 each. Shoemakers were next, with 985. The number of unskilled admitted can be better appreciated when it is shown that only 466 immigrants professed a knowledge of one of the following important skilled trades: Brewers, carpenters, jewelers, metal workers, plasterers, plumbers, barrowmakers, stonecutters, upholsterers, woodworkers, and tobacco workers.

FOR FEDERAL WIRE MONOPOLY.

Washington, Feb. 7.—In response to a request of the United States Senate for all information on the subject of government ownership, Postmaster General Burleson, in a report to that body, comes out squarely for the absorption by the private ownership of all telegraph, telephone and radio communication. The recommendation include not only the well known means of communication, but all those that may hereafter be developed. The Postmaster General says that it was the clear intention of the framers of the constitution that the government should have a monopoly over all means for the transmission of intelligence, for it declared that "Congress shall have the power to establish postoffices and postroads." It is proposed to buy out the telephone and telegraph lines for telegraphic purposes. The report says: "The postal service maintains about 44,000 offices and stations and employs about 290,000 persons. The telephone service maintains about 50,000 offices and employs about 200,000 persons. Were these two services merged and operated under government control, it would be feasible to transfer many telephone offices to postoffice buildings and thus greatly reduce the aggregate expense for quarters."

URGE SHOPMEN TO UNITE.

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 7.—At large afternoon and evening mass meetings in this city, held under the auspices of the local labor federation, the speakers referred to an alleged labor union, styled the "Pennsylvania Railroad Mutual Benefit association," which was charged with being a "company" organization. While the meetings were held in the churches that have resulted through organization by men in the railroad service, the speakers called on the shop men to join the labor organization of their calling or craft. Representative Blaney, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, declared that "only by organization can the shop men hope to better your conditions."

SHORTER HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 7.—The lower house has passed the Thompson bill, which will reduce the hours for women employed in mercantile establishments. The present law provides that sixty hours a week shall be the limit for women. Thompson act reduces this to fifty-four a week, with a limit on hours in any one day. No female shall be given to work later than 10 p. m. Provision is made for the enforcement of the law.

FORM A STATE COUNCIL.

St. Paul, Feb. 7.—The building trade unions of this state have formed a council as the result of a conference to this city, which was attended by half a hundred delegates. A tax of 1 cent a month upon each member is levied, a organization is proposed, and meetings will be held when the State Federation of Labor meets.

BOOKBINDERS MAKE GAINS.

Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 7.—After a ten days' strike, Bookbinders in this city succeeded in signing a wage scale that calls for an increase of $1 a week for all, both men and women. This is the first time the women have had a recognized scale. Increase ranges from 2 cents to $2 a week.

DISPUTE SETTLED.

Duluth, Feb. 7.—Local Carpenters have settled their differences with a branch of a Minneapolis brewery company, which was charged with employing workers below the scale and compelling them to work nine hours a day.

PAYMENT MADE QUICKLY.

Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 7.—The State Industrial Commission illustrated the, benefits of the workmen's compensation law by making the first payment to the widow and six small children of Alvah Hall five days after he was burned to death in the powder house of a traction company in this city. In five days the commission had secured all proofs of the case from the widow, physicians and others. The family will receive $12 weekly until the maximum—$3,744—is paid. The law also provides for the payment of funeral expenses. The Commission has reported that over 400,000 Ohio employes are now under protection of the compensation act. The law empowers the commission to permit manufacturers to provide their own insurance, but the officials in charge of the law have insisted on such safeguards that but few are taking advantage of this section. To date there are 307 industries, with a total annual payroll of $94,000,000, that are providing their own means of compensation. Forty-six of this number pay more than $94,000,000 of the $94,000,000, which has caused Mr. Hall, secretary of the Commission, to announce that: "The Industrial Commission has discovered that in a number of cases smaller employers have been beguiled into taking this action without understanding the situation under the law. We have discovered that the facts a number of employers have asked permission to drop their private arrangements and pay their premiums entirely into the state fund."

PERE MARQUETTE STRIKE.

Saginaw, Mich., Feb. 7.—The strike of Pere Marquette railroad shop craftsmen, which has been on for eight months, is still waged by many workers, who say their greatest trouble is a failure to secure publicity of conditions and the fact that a number of the strike breakers are deputies with creating the impression that any labor editor who refers to conditions will be jailed. The conference of Federal Judge Arthur Tuttle, of the eastern district of Michigan, who is receiver for this railroad. The strikers are calling attention to a report of the State Railroad Commissioner, which puts the Pere Marquette's record in the lead in this state for killing and injuring passengers and employes in the year 1912. The Pere Marquette's record is: Employes, 18 killed, 293 injured. Passengers, five killed and 121 injured. It is intended to ask Congress to investigate the causes that are responsible for this frightful toll. Chief of the Pere Marquette Railway Clerks for higher wages is now in the hands of Mr. James Hogan of the Department of Labor, who successfully mediated an agreement for the Harriman lines on the Chicago & Alton railroad. The Clerks received no satisfaction from Frank H. Alfred, the general manager for the Pere Marquette receiver.

SCREEN BILL PASSES SENATE.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 7.—The Green anti-screen bill has passed the Ohio senate with but one dissenting vote. The bill was introduced by Senator Green, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, and provides for the weighing and payment of coal mined by the ton, the miners being paid only for the coal that did not go through screens. It the last session of the legislature a commission was appointed to investigate the question. The bill now provides for the men for whose years of agitation are beginning to bear fruit.

INDUSTRIAL BOARD READY.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 7.—Starting last Wednesday the new Industrial Board of this state held its first monthly meeting in this city to consider matters of the administration of the factory inspection and other labor laws. The board will be a part of the State Department of Labor, and will afford a place for appeal against orders changing manufacturing plants. It will also have power to make rules and regulations in various plants that are not covered by the law, and which render it impossible to specifically mention because of constant changes. The board is empowered to hold investigations in any part of the state, and its decisions are final, subject only to the courts. Meetings will be held every month.

HOLDS RAILROAD LIABLE.

Indianapolis, Feb. 7.—The State Supreme Court holds the Chicago and Erie railroad liable for damages in the case of a workman who was injured while executing a special order to move a car from the main line, although he was but 18 feet against an adjoining car on the same track. While so situated the string of cars against which his feet were placed was bumped, and he was injured. The company held that it was guilty of negligence, but the court disagreed with this view, declaring that it was the duty of the company to furnish a safe place, and was justified in using the other car as a resistance basis in an effort to obey orders.

CONVICTS FAVOR PUBLICITY.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 7.—After the convicts in the state penitentiary had taken a vote on the question and unanimously favored the plan, Governor Dunne has given permission to a moving picture concern to depict scenes of life and show some of the innovations which have been introduced by Warden Allen. The pictures are to be used in the efforts of the inmates of the institution can not be recognized. The state official objected to the plan on the ground that the convicts would be humiliated.

WILL INSIST ON INCREASE.

Lancaster, Penn., Feb. 7.—Cigarmakers in the First and Ninth internal revenue districts of Pennsylvania are conducting an agitation for a wage increase of $1 a thousand for making cigars. Numerous conferences have been held with manufacturers without effect, but at a recent meeting these workers decided to take a strike vote on the question. If a majority favor the step it will be taken in the meantime a campaign of organization is being carried on.

WOULD LABEL THE CANS.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 7.—Citizens of this state will be able to tell the age of canned stuff, and how long it has been in the can, if a bill now being introduced in the state legislature. Assemblyman Nutting favors a law providing that canned goods be sold, canned or packed, shall have the date stamped when such product was placed in the package.

UNIONS REORGANIZED.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 7.—The American Brotherhood of Cement Workers reorganized the unions of Cement Workers in Fort Worth, Providence and Erie, with Cement Workers in several other cities perfecting organizations.

GIRLS WIN STUBBORN FIGHT

Employer Forced to Abandon "No-Arbitration" Policy.

UNITY CHECKS WAGE DECREASE

Old Rates and Working Conditions Remain in Force Until Arbitrators Report.

Philadelphia, Feb. 7.—After a seven weeks' strike of 2,000 hosiery workers at the Taubel mills, the management has rescinded its "no-arbitration" position and accepted the solution offered by the strikers and officers of the United Textile Workers of America, affiliated to the A. F. of L. The strike was called after a reduction of wages and a refusal to even discuss the matter with the interested workers. The strike completely tied up several mills, because of the enthusiasm shown by the girls and the aid given them by local trade unionists and officials of the Textile Workers. This activity, together with the efforts of ex-President Smith of the Central body, who, as a representative of the Textile Workers, induced the management to change its views and an agreement was entered into whereby the girls will return to the mills under the old rates and conditions, which shall remain in force until the entire matter is decided by a board of arbitration. The strikers accepted this plan, as it was the position they maintained during the walkout. Another section of the agreement provides that "The Taubel hosiery mills will in no way discriminate actively towards any of its employees which might be construed as a penalty for going on strike, and no victimizing tactics will be made on the part of the Taubel hosiery mills toward any employe because of their being out on strike." They are now enthusiastic over their efforts to stand by the girls, who have named Secretary-Treasurer Hilbert of the United Textile Workers of America to represent them on the board of arbitration.

AGAINST COMPULSION.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Declaring that he was opposed to any legislation for compulsory arbitration of strikes, Secretary Wilson urged before the House Committee on Appropriations to favor a $50,000 appropriation for the appointment of conciliation commissioners to settle strikes. "He said that in many cases these commissioners would be willing to serve without pay, and that he would be glad to have them serve under these conditions, but if the occasion required it they should be paid their expenses. He told the committee that the work of conciliation by his department was handicapped by a lack of funds. It was at this point Mr. Wilson expressed his views on compulsory arbitration and said that he believed that the majority of right-thinking citizens agreed with this viewpoint.

STORES VIOLATE LAW.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—State factory inspectors are investigating the charges that stores in this city which force girls to work after 10 o'clock are in violation of state law. The management of one store produced signed statements to the girls denying that they had been forced to work, but acknowledged they were ignorant of the contents of these documents, and the state's official charged that "there's a purpose was to have the testimony of the girls withdrawn because it was contradictory. In several cases fines were inflicted, and in one the factory inspector's action was withdrawn at the complaint because of a technical error in the warrant which was drawn against the superintendent instead of against the owner of the store. New complaints were immediately filed.

KEYMEN TALK OF STRIKE.

Cleveland, Feb. 7.—Members of the Order of Railway Telegraphers employed by the Lake Shore and Big Four railroads have asked for a favorable consideration of their demands, and strike ballots are now in their hands. Above 2,000 officials and clerks are involved. The men demand a 10-hour day in one-man stations and an eight-hour day in stations employing more than one man. They also ask 40 cents an hour for overtime and time and a half for Sundays. The roads have refused the demands, on the grounds that food times last spring make extra expense impossible.

ARE UP AND DOING.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 7.—"Things look bright for labor in this state. We have been a power in past legislatures and we can be a greater power," declared Thomas Kennedy, head of the State Federation of Labor at a mass meeting of unionists and sympathizers in this city. The speech was one being urged by organized labor. Regulating advancements for the benefit of employers and the dispute prohibiting the employment of females in foundries as core-makers or in any department where the temperature of any child under fourteen years of age in any factory or workshop. The proposal to establish a bureau of labor and steam boiler inspection, with a salaried official in charge, was also favored.

UPHOLDS LAUNDRY LAW.

San Francisco, Feb. 7.—The State Supreme Court has upheld an ordinance passed by this city limiting hours of labor in laundries to eight per day, or 48 per week, or 8 hours per day, or 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. A Chinaman appealed the case to the court, which decided that the court held these hours were not excessive and referred to a decision of the United States Supreme Court to sustain this position.

DEFENSE FUND REMAINS.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Feb. 7.—By an overwhelming vote the Amalgamated Association of Operative Potters will not divide their $5,000 defense fund among the members, but will hold both fund and subscribe organization. The new rate is to be 10 cents for the former and 50 for the latter.

PRINTERS' RAISE WAGES.

Lancaster, Penn., Feb. 7.—The local Typographical union has secured an increase of $1 a week both to hand and machine compositors. The new rate is to be 30 for the former and 33 for the latter.